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NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE
NEWS

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Osler and Billings Featured in Tampa Address

The "relationship to books, computers, and medicine" of Sir William Osler and Dr. John Shaw Billings, first director of the National Library of Medicine, was the theme of NLM Director Martin M. Cummings' address on March 7 in Tampa, Florida to the Hillsborough County Medical Association. Their friendship of nearly thirty years, Dr. Cummings pointed out, was built on the strong foundation of common tastes and interests, and deep mutual admiration.

Dr. Cummings went on to discuss Dr. Billings' role as initiator, in 1880, of the use of Federal funds in the support of medical investigations into such problems of current concern as air and water pollution, food adulteration, anti-infective agents, and a study "as to the best plans for a national public health organization."

It was nearly 100 years ago when Billings, as Vice President of the National Board of Health, the short-lived predecessor of the U. S. Public Health Service, reported these first research grants in the organization's annual report. In it, too, was a report of the investigation of yellow fever in the island of Cuba.

"Billings the librarian, medical bibliographer, and hospital designer may also be considered to have been one of the nation's foremost medical statisticians and science administrators," he said. "He was also the engineering consultant who designed the ventilation system for our nation's Capitol, and the designer and librarian of the New York Public Library system--a feat which he accomplished by charming $5 million dollars from Andrew Carnegie."

It was Dr. Billings who "first suggested to Hollerith that an electrical machine utilizing punch cards should be developed for use in the 1880 census." Osler, as another physician concerned with applying new technological methods in his own work, "was among the first to utilize machine-compiled vital statistics for application to medical research, teaching, and practice," said Dr. Cummings.

Dr. Cummings said he anticipated the continued use of books and computers as an aid to man's memory and as an adjunct to his skills and talents. He warned, however, that "we should not fragment the unity of medicine by attempting to exploit these new modalities of information and communication technology without considering their effects upon the welfare of people, individually and collectively, and upon the purposes to which medical teaching, research, and practice are dedicated."

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
Public Health Service
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NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE
NEWS

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New Abstract Journal Appears

In response to a growing concern for the needs of life scientists throughout the world, BIOSIS (BioSciences Information Service), in collaboration with the Toxicology Information Program of NLM's Specialized Information Services, has prepared a monthly abstract journal, supported by a machine-readable data base, covering *Health Effects of Environmental Pollutants (HEEP)*. Production started with the January 1972 issue.

Coverage for the new journal is being selected from *Biological Abstracts*, *BioResearch Index*, and the data base for NLM's MEDLARS (Medical Literature Analysis and Retrieval System). It contains approximately 1,000 abstracts per issue. Each issue includes author, subject, and cross-indexes in a format similar to that used in *Biological Abstracts*. The ancillary magnetic tape service consists of complete bibliographic citations plus search terms, but no abstracts. Chemical Abstract Services (CAS) registry numbers are included. The project will receive partial support from the National Library of Medicine.

Reference material covered in *HEEP* is limited to environmental chemicals or substances other than medicinals, with emphasis on their effects on human health. Criteria for inclusion admit general reviews and original papers reporting: potentially harmful effects on humans; lower vertebrates used as indicators of the substances toxic to man;vertebrates and invertebrates as vectors in the food chain; and analytical methods for examining biological tissues or fluids.

HEEP is expected to help fill a crucial need confronting scientists today for current information concerned with effects on humans of environmental pollutants.

For more complete information, please contact: Professional Services Department, BioSciences Information Service, 2100 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103.

Two Types of Resource Grant Available

Medical Library Resource Grants authorized by the Medical Library Assistance Extension Act of 1970 are intended to improve the status of the Nation's health science libraries. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1972, the Congress appropriated $2,505,000 for this purpose. Public and private non-profit institutions may apply for Resource Grants on behalf of their health science libraries, which are defined as those whose primary purpose is to serve medicine, dentistry, nursing, pharmacy, osteopathy, and any other fields related to health. Eligible institutions include, but are not limited to, schools of health professions, hospitals, and health-related research institutions.

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There are two types of Medical Library Resource Grants -- the Improvement Grant and the Project Grant. The Improvement Grant is a one-year, non-renewable award in an amount up to $3,000. It is directed towards health-related institutions which need to establish a library or to small libraries needing to improve and expand their basic resources. Applicants must agree to provide, with non-Federal funds, adequate and appropriately located space for the library and a minimum 0.5 full-time equivalent library staff member. Improvement Grant applicants must further agree to support the library during and after the period of Federal support.

Resource Project Grants are intended to assist in the implementation of a program designed to get existing resources to the users in a more expeditious, effective or economical way, or in a form most likely to satisfy the users' needs as educators, researchers, or practitioners. A Project Grant may be considered for any directed activity which can reasonably be predicted to improve the dissemination of informational material. Improvement may be the direct result of a service program for users or the indirect result of some improvement in the technical library functions. Depending on the nature of the proposed project, support may range from one to three years. The amount of any award may not exceed $200,000 per year.

Separate application forms and instructions are now available for each type. This material supersedes the forms and tentative "Policies and Procedures Manual" dated October 1970. Information and application kits may be obtained from:

Resources Division
Extramural Programs
National Library of Medicine
8600 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, Maryland 20014
Telephone: 301-496-4221

When requesting a kit, please specify the type of grant in which you are interested.

Director Urges Clarity, Precision in Scientific Writing

In a Miami address last month, NLM Director Dr. Martin M. Cummings said that the English language is emerging as the universal language of scientific reports published in leading journals throughout the world. The other principal speaker during the two days of ceremonies marking the dedication of the $2.5 million Louis Calder Memorial Library of the University of Miami School of Medicine was Representative Paul G. Rogers of Florida, Chairman of the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Public Health and Welfare.

Dr. Cummings cited estimates that "during the past 50 years the percentage of papers [on biochemistry] published in English has increased from 40 to 90.... In medicine we would estimate a slower transition from approximately 40 to 60 percent." He continued, "The obvious benefit of such a trend need not be

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stressed. However, it occurs to me that if our language is fast becoming the standard language of science, we have a responsibility to learn how to speak and write English properly ourselves."

In a plea for "more attention to clarity and precision of expression" in medical writing, Dr. Cummings was critical of duplication and redundancy in published literature. One well-written account of research in one good journal is all that should be expected of a scientist, he said, but instead, the same work is repeated in several forms in different journals, as well as appearing in several abstract journals.

"About 20 percent of the scientific literature is abstracted more than once -- a wasteful if not confusing process," he said. "Some believe that research is not completed until it is published. If this be true, then the world is doomed to drown in a sea of paper unless new and more efficient publication methods are developed. If I were to select the highest priority for rapid solution, I would suggest that we address ourselves first to competent writing. The preparation of lucid but brief scientific reports could reduce the size and volume of literature significantly. Since bad writing is often a reflection of bad thinking, I believe there would be little loss of new knowledge if we imposed more critical standards for publication."

Dr. Cummings was introduced by Dr. Emanual M. Papper, University of Miami Vice President for Medical Affairs and medical dean, who accepted a gift to the new library from the NLM director of a 1537 edition of *The Aphorisms of Hippocrates, With a Commentary by Galen* for its rare book collection. The modern three-story library was financed with a construction grant of $1 million through the Medical Library Assistance Act and a matching amount from the Louis Calder Foundation. Ground was broken in January 1971 and the building was completed a year later. Mrs. Mildred C. Langner is director of the new library.

More About Policy Changes for Support of Training Programs

In the January issue of the *NLM News*, the decision of the Board of Regents to phase out training programs which are designed to offer the masters' degree in library science was reported. The reasons for this decision were not stated; because there has been considerable misunderstanding concerning this change, they will be briefly presented here.

The Board acted after receiving detailed information on curriculum content and placement of graduates. From 1965 to 1971, 287 individuals were supported in these programs. Of these, information is available concerning 195 graduates; 124 were graduates of masters' programs and 71 were graduates of internship programs. Sixty-four percent of the graduate degree program subsequently entered the biomedical library/information science field while 77% of the graduates of the internship programs did so.

Of particular significance was the finding that the biomedical content of the typical M.S. in L.S. program supported amounted to little more than an introductory course in medical librarianship--about nine percent of the total curriculum. In

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The NLM Director described the two eminent physicians as men who knew how to combine the past with the present, and concern themselves with the frailties of humanity. "Unless their perspectives are retained," he said, "the art of medicine may become a cool unfeeling science, much to the discomfort of the patient and the practitioner."

History of Medicine Staff Members Present Papers

Two members of the staff of the NLM History of Medicine Division presented papers at the March 22 meeting of the Washington Society for the History of Medicine, held in the Library. Dr. Peter Krivatsy spoke on "Paracelsus in Basle: A Loss of Nerve" and Manfred Waserman presented "An Itinerant Surgeon in the Revolutionary Era: The Papers of Dr. Zuriel Waterman." Dr. Peter Olch is Secretary-Treasurer of the Society.

On March 15, Dr. James H. Cassedy, also of the History of Medicine Division, spoke at a seminar at the National Center for Health Statistics. His topic was "Statistical Experience in American Demography and Medicine, 1800-1865."

Publication Notes

The Superintendent of Documents has established a price of $16.50, plus an additional $4.25 for foreign mailing, for the 1971 edition of the *National Library of Medicine Current Catalog*. This edition contains six sections: Current Catalog subject and name sections, Technical Reports subject and name sections, and Audio-visuals subject and name sections (with an appended list of sales sources). Although the publication is not scheduled to appear until late April, orders are now being accepted by the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. To help speed your order, please include the following GPO catalog number: HE 20.3609/3:971.

* * *

In the February 1972 *News*, we provided a list of current NLM publications available from the Superintendent of Documents; we also mentioned problems many customers had faced in attempting to obtain these publications from the Government Printing Office. Since that time, we have learned of new instructions issued by the Superintendent of Documents, which will greatly speed service. The immediate objective of the Superintendent of Documents is to "fill all orders within seven (7) working days of receipt of the order." The following instructions are given to help meet this objective:

1. Only "single line item orders" are to be sent to the Superintendent of Documents. This means that each order should contain a request for only one publication title, although several orders may be sent at the same time with payment in one sum. More than one item on an order often causes delay in assembling the items for shipment.

2. Always give the Catalog Number and/or Stock Number, and the full title of the publication being ordered. These are obtainable in the Price Lists, Selected

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NLM Regent Honored

A member of the NLM Board of Regents, Jack M. Layton, M.D., of the University of Arizona College of Medicine, is the incoming President of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists. He will succeed William D. Dolan, M.D. of Arlington, Virginia, at the Society's annual meeting in San Francisco in October.

Dr. Layton, chairman of the department of pathology at Arizona, is acting dean and director of the Arizona Medical Center in Tucson.

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short, a detailed study of the total record of the masters degree programs supported by NLM revealed a dearth of educational innovation, relatively little emphasis on specific health sciences content, and only a moderately successful record of placement in health sciences libraries.

As a result of these findings, and following a conference of NLM Training Program Directors held in May 1971, the Board of Regents reached the decision to modify policies for support of training programs. Following the action of the Board, all concerned program directors met with the Extramural staff of NLM in Bethesda to discuss the Board's action and to reevaluate their own programs. There was general acceptance of the policy changes, and steps are now being taken to implement the Board's action.

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List, announcement order forms, and the Monthly Catalog of U. S. Government Publications, printed by the Superintendent of Documents. We are providing this information for NLM publications below.

3. Remittance in the form of check, money order, or Superintendent of Documents coupons should accompany the order. Unless otherwise specified, foreign orders should include an additional 25% of the domestic price to cover mailing.

4. In ordering periodicals, specify year and volume number of the publication requested. (In most cases back issues cannot be furnished; subscriptions therefore generally begin with the next issue after the order has been processed.)

Title	*Price*	*GPO Catalog Number*
Index Medicus (1972)	$63.00 ($78.75 foreign)	*HE 20.36 2:*
Cumulated Index Medicus (1971)	$84.00 ($92.25 foreign)	*HE 20.3612/3:12*
Cumulated Index Medicus (1970)	$84.00 ($92.25 foreign)	*HE 20.3612/3:11*
Cumulated Index Medicus (1969)	$90.50 ($100.00 foreign)	*HE 20.3612/3:10*
Abridged Index Medicus (1972)	$12.00 ($15.00 foreign)	*HE 20.3612/2:*
Cumulated Abridged Index Medicus (1971)	$10.00 ($12.50 foreign)	*HE 20.3612/2-2:2*

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Title	*Price*	*GPO Catalog Number*
Cumulated Abridged Index Medicus(1970)	$10.00($12.50 foreign)	*HE 20.3612/2-2:1*
Medical Subject Headings (1972)	$3.00	*HE 20.3612:13/1pt2*
List of Journals Indexed in Index Medicus (1972)	$1.25	*HE 20.3612/4:972*
Monthly Bibliography of Medical Reviews (1972)	$4.50(5.75 foreign)	*HE 20:3610:*
Bibliography of Medical Reviews (1966-1970)	$6.75	*HE 20.3610/2:966-70*
NLM Current Catalog,Monthly'72	$7.50($9.50 foreign)	*HE 20.3609:*
NLM Current Catalog, Quarterly'72	$13.00($16.25 foreign)	*HE 20.3609/2:*
NLM Current Catalog, Annual '71	$16.50($20.75 foreign)	*HE 20.3609/3:971*
NLM Current Catalog, Annual '70	$16.25($20.35 foreign)	*HE 20.3609/3:970*
NLM Current Catalog, 1965-1970	$71.75($80.00 foreign)	*HE 20.3609/3:965-70*
Toxicity Bibliography (quarterly) '72	$14.00($17.50 foreign)	*HE 20.3613:*
Current Bibliography of Epidemiology, 1972 (monthly)	$12.50 ($15.75 foreign)	*HE 20.3617:*
Selected References on Environmental Quality As It Relates to Health, '72 (monthly)	$4.00 ($5.00 foreign)	*HE 20.3616:*
International Bibliography of Medico-legal Serials, 1736-1967	$1.25	*FS 2.209:M46/736-967*
Bibliography of the History of Medicine,		
1968 (Number 4)	$2.75	*HE 20.3615:4*
1967 (Number 3)	$2.75	*FS 2.209/4:3*
1966 and 1965 (Number 2 and 1)	O U T O F P R I N T	
1965-1969 (Number 5)	In press, price to be announced.	
Prints Relating to Dentistry	$0.50	*FS 2.202:D43*
NLM Classification	$2.75 ($3.45 foreign)	*HE 20.3602:C56/969*
National Audiovisual Center Catalog, 1970	O U T O F P R I N T	
Film Reference Guide for Medicine and Allied Sciences, 1970	$2.75	*HE 20.3608/2:970*

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MEDLARS: 1963-1967	$0.75	*FS 2.202:M46/3*
Principles of MEDLARS	$0.75	*HE 20.3608:M46/2*

New Literature Searches

Single copies of the bibliographies listed below are available (without charge) from the Literature Search Program, Reference Section, National Library of Medicine, 8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland 20014. They should be requested by number and title. Please do not use interlibrary loan forms.

A complete list of the Literature Searches presently available may be obtained from the above address. (This list also appears monthly within the introductory pages of *Index Medicus* and the *Monthly Bibliography of Medical Reviews.)*

L. S. No.	Title
72-1	Acupuncture. January 1969-February 1972. (69 citations)
72-2	Programmed instruction in medicine and allied health professions. January 1969-February 1972. (129 citations) This bibliography is an up-dating of Literature Search no. 70-9.

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